

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

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Comfortable Silence

“...a time to keep silence, and a time to speak” (Eccl. 3:7)

Are you comfortable with silence? We live in a noisy world where we are constantly plugged into sound. Music, videos, television, chatter, machinery, automobiles, people talking. It’s hard to find a place where there is no man-produced sounds. In this world it is hard to hear the voice of God.

Many of us are very uncomfortable when there is silence in our relationships. Lulls in speech, just sitting together...that huge vacuum when neither party is talking...creates moments of emotional distress. So we scrape the bottom of the barrel for something to say.

Mature relationships don’t require constant chatter. My wife and I may sit for extended periods of time without saying a word. Or, we may exchange meaningful conversation about meaningful things. Riding silently in the car, reclining with a good book or newspaper, or working in different parts of the house is comfortable silence.

I believe King David had come to this place in his relationship with God. There were many moments of intense verbal praise or supplication when David poured his heart out to God. There were other times when he simply relaxed in God’s presence, in the “shadow” of His wings (Psalm 63:6-8). He rejoiced that God was comfortably near.

As we grow in our relationship with God we experience the same kind of relationship. A relationship based on a peaceful awareness that He is there, knowing our hearts, our needs, and providing a shelter for us under the shadow of His wings. Sometimes we are talking, sometimes listening and meditating, sometimes just feeling gratitude in our hearts. We know we can speak or not speak, because He is still there.

“...the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him” (Habakkuk 2:20)

— Al Behel

Other News/Sick:

Sympathy: To the family of **Johnny Bryan** who passed away on Friday. His wife, Debby, passed away on May 22. Our prayers are with all his family. The family will receive friends at Atchley Funeral Home (West Chapel) in Sevierville on Monday from 2-3 p.m. with the service at 3 p.m.

Shawn Molloy, frequent visitor and local optometrist, had hip surgery and is facing other surgeries. His wife’s name is Darlene. His home address which is 339 Happy Trails Way, Sevierville, TN 37862. Your prayers are requested.

Rick Cliett—We are happy him home from Malaysia for a few weeks.

Honduras: Steve & Donna Dick are visiting the church in La Esperanza, Honduras. They will be inquiring about the work we are supporting and providing encouragement to that wonderful work. We appreciate all who donated funds and clothing items to assist church members there.

Fascinating Fact: Even strong men have fear. Augustus Caesar was so terrified of thunderstorms that he wrapped himself in sealskin and hid in a corner. Another Roman emperor, Caligula, would often hide under a bed during a thunderstorm.

Elder Contact for Month: Jim Anderson, Phone No. 924-1067

Sermon Topics: A.M.—“Giving God Our Best”; P.M.—“At Home In The Psalms—A Broken and Contrite Heart”

Interpreter for deaf and hearing impaired available for AM and PM worship

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—It was so good to see Dez back with us in worship. She continues to battle multiple health issues and her activity level is very limited. Keep praying...God is listening and answering.

Ron Sommerville had to delay nerve block surgery because of low heart rate.

Clara Mayberry—still confined to home.

Kathy May –ill in Baxter. You can send her a card at P.O. Box 465, Baxter, TN 38544-0463.

Tom Elkins - recovering from a shatter heel suffered in a fall.

Larry Valentine –has received his last scheduled chemotherapy and was back with us Wednesday night. Keep praying for his full recovery.

Wyatt Cox, is continuing to recover from heart surgery.

Angie Daimwood –Room 136 at Wellspring, the new assisted living facility near Wellington Place and LeConte Medical Center.

Friends and Family

Jim Smith, brother of Shirley Harmon, was critically injured in a fall from his attic onto concrete. He has been released from the trauma center and is making significant improvement.

Christopher Howell (grandson of the Littletons-spinal cord injuries suffered in automobile accident).

Robin McCollum and Peggy McCollum (Al’s nieces-battling cancer).

Sue Mercer’s sister, **Connie Browning**, breast cancer.

Esther Stewart’s sister, Florence, is in now in hospice care.

Rick Cliett’s brother, **Ken Cliett**, is battling Ascites and kidney failure. He has been moved to a nursing facility close to his children.

Leah’s neighbor’s (Miss Rose) son –in-law, **Jimmy Lee**, is being treated for brain cancer.

Jerry Ellison, Brenda Scott’s brother-in-law, failing lungs with no further treatment available.

Al’s brother, Tom Behel, is improving significantly. He is now able to eat, walk with minimal assistance, and has attended church six times.

Madison Stanley, seven year old granddaughter of friends of the Clietts -stage 4 cancer—undergoing aggressive chemo and radiation.

Gayle Raines, a frequent visitor and minister, is suffering from Stage 4 cancer of the jaw. Please keep him in prayer.

Carol Fromke, wife of Vince Fromke, M.D, (one of Al’s associates), is much better. Thank you for your prayers. Cards may be sent to Carol at Livingston Clinic, 500 West Main Street, Livingston, TN 38570.

Sunday Bible Study

Colossians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

Paul Huston, son-in-law of Gary and Priscilla Dick, deployed to Egypt for one year. Prayers appreciated.

Times of Services

Sunday A.M.

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday P.M. 6:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

Building Fund

Loan balance as of 07/01/14 is **\$1,135,918.29**. Extra contributions to reduce the loan debt are needed and appreciated. Envelopes are available in the pew.

Nursery

Located across main foyer. Closed circuit TV allows viewing and participation in worship.

CDs and DVDs of Sermons are available free at sound booth. Also available on the website at: www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com.